GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:473
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
REHABILITATION OF TSUNAMI AFFECTED CHILDREN
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The number of children orphaned by the Tsunami disaster;

(b) Whether the Government is taking special measures for rehabilitation of Tsunami disaster orphan children; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a)As per available information 529 children have lost both the parents.

(b) & (c) The concerned State Governments/UT Administrations had been alerted and advised to maintain strict vigil against trafficking of these children.While a large number of organizations/individuals have expressed interest to adopt these children and their requests have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, it is most likely that these children will be rehabilitated in a familiar environment within the community.Various relief and rehabilitation measures have been taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment including setting up of Child Helpline services at Port Blair, Nagapattinam and Karaikal and provision of trauma counseling services through Indian Council for Child Welfare at Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari districts. An assistance of Rs.11.68 lakhs has been sanctioned for 2004-05 to the Social Welfare and Nutritious meal Programme Department of Government of Tamil Nadu for setting up of 3 children's homes for tsunami orphans.The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also released Rs.11.00 lakhs to the State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Andaman & Nicobar Islands for special care to women especially lactating mother and children affected by Tsunami and staying in various relief camps.